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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0047] The spring-retaining cap 82, illustrated in Figures 22a-22d, includes a curvilinear portion 140 having an upper surface 142 and a lower surface 144. The thickness of the curvilinear portion 140 is set to allow the curvilinear portion 140 to fit in the recess 80 with the upper surface 142 flush with the intermediate portion 46 of the plug body 40, as illustrated in Figures 7 and 12. A plurality of spring alignment tips 146 extend from the lower surface 144 to engage the springs [[148]] 115. In addition, a pair of cap retaining tips 152 extend from the lower surface 144 to engage alignment openings 154 formed in the plug body 40 (Figure s 16e-16f).

[0050] The internal configuration of a lock cylinder 10 with the valid key 160 inserted therein at the home position is illustrated in Figures 8-12. In this configuration, the locking bar 94 is free to cam out of the groove 29 in the cylinder body 12, as depicted in Figures 8, 9 and 12. The bits of the key 160 lift the pins 113 in the channels 74 and thereby re-position the racks 92 in the slots 102. When repositioned, the racks 92 are disposed to align the locking bar-engaging grooves 132 with the extended gear teeth 136 on the locking bar 94. The locking bar 94 is free to cam out of the groove 29 as the key 160 is rotated. At the same time, the bullet-shaped features 78 are aligned with the ~~recesses~~ grooves 111 in the racks 92, as illustrated in Figure 12, allowing the racks 92, and the carrier 90, to move parallel to the longitudinal axis of the lock cylinder 10.